I: Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

monies. The Lyngngams possess no head-hunting customs, so far as it has been possible to ascertain. These people are still wild and uncivilized. Although they do not, as a rule, give trouble, from an administrative point of view, a very serious dacoity, accompanied by murder, was committed by certain Lyngngams at an Assamese village on the outskirts of the Lyngngam country a few years ago. The victims were two Marwari merchants and their servant, as well as another man. These people were brutally murdered by the Lyngngams, and robbed of their property. The offenders were, however, successfully traced and arrested by Inspector Raj Mohan Das, and several of them suffered capital punishment, the remainder being transported for life.

20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1897 AR7 Khasi AR7

625 In 1835, when British authority was first extended to the Khási
648 Hills, the cost of maintaining the police, from the rank of *jowáddár*
965 or head constable upwards, was £25; and in 1840, £35, 16s. By 1860, when the Jáintiá Hills had been annexed, and a *thánd* opened at Jowái, the cost had risen to £480. In the year 1869 the strength of the regular police was 149 men in the Khási Hills, and an additional 29 in Jáintiá.

In 1873 the police stations of the Khási and Jáintiá Hills were as follow:—The force consisted of 2 inspectors on a salary of 150 rupees of Rs. 100 a month, or £200 a year; 3 sub-inspectors and 13 head constables on a salary of less than Rs. 100 a month; and 113 constables on an average pay of Rs. 5 a month, or £10, 16s. a year. The total pay of subordinate officers amounted to Rs. 8,340 or £834 a year; and the total pay of constables to Rs. 10,168 or £1016, 16s. Certain contingencies brought the aggregate expenses to Rs. 24,563 or £2456, 16s. The total number of men of all ranks was 132. As compared with the area and population of the District, these figures show one man to every 16·29 square miles, or to every 1553 persons of the population, maintained at a cost of Rs. 2. 1 or 3s. 1½d. per square mile, and of 2 *dánds* 10 *pies* or 4½d. per head of population. Of the total force, 1 officer and 13 men were employed to guard the jail, 3 officers and 23 men to guard the treasury and lock-up and to serve as escorts, leaving 109 officers and 77 men available for general duty.

648 692 CRIMINAL STATISTICS.—The District of the Khási and Jáintiá Hills, like the other Hill Districts of Assam, is administered by political officers, under special rules framed under Act xxii. of 1869. Petty criminal cases are disposed of by the indigenous magistracy, and only cases of a heinous character are reported to the political officers. Similarly, civil causes are referred to arbitration, according to the indigenous system of village *panchâyats*; and the Deputy-Commissioner reports that this system, while affording equal justice to the people, tends to preserve them from the evil of litigiousness.

• 639 178 In 1874 the total number of cases reported by the police to the political officers was 83, as compared with 63 in the previous year. In these 83 cases, 100 persons were arrested, of whom 72 were put on their trial; 60 persons, or 86 per cent., were convicted, and 12 were acquitted.

Though little serious crime exists in the Hills, yet the number of offences shows a tendency towards increase. The Report of the

Deputy-Commissioner for 1878-79 states that in that year 178 persons in all were brought before the magistrates, the most common classes of cases being theft and house trespass. In the same year 89 civil suits were instituted, of which 83 were for money claims, 2 for immoveable property, 2 for restitution of conjugal rights, and 1 in connection with religion and caste. In the Political Court there were 31 cases tried during the year, of which 13 were civil and 18 criminal. In the latter class of cases process issued against 60 persons, of whom 20 were convicted and 40 acquitted. The details of the two following cases will illustrate the condition of social life in the District. The first was a case of grievous hurt. The Sirdar of Mylliem had sent four persons to fetch a man named U Dorja, who had been selected to marry the Sirdar's sister. While on their way the messengers were attacked by a number of persons, evidently relatives of U Dorja who were opposed to the marriage. One of them was severely beaten, and died within twelve days from pneumonia. The offenders, numbering five in all, were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10 (£1) each, or in default to suffer fourteen days' imprisonment. The second case was one of oppression. It originated in a dispute about land, situated in a locality over which both the Sirdar of Nongkhlaw and the Lyngdoh of Sohiong claimed to exercise jurisdiction. The parties out of possession had gone to lay their complaint before the Sirdar, whereupon the Lyngdoh, with eight other persons, seized three of the complainants' labourers, ill-treated them, and kept them in duresse with the object of having the complaint submitted to himself for adjudication. The Lyngdoh was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 50 (£5), and his companions were warned and discharged.

JAIL STATISTICS.—There are two jails in the Khási and Jáintia Hills:—(1) The jail at Shillong, which is directly under the charge of the Deputy-Commissioner; and (2) the lock-up at Jowái, under the Assistant-Commissioner. It has been proposed to build a new jail at Shillong; the present structure consists only of bamboo huts, surrounded by a fence of the same material. 697

The following are the jail statistics for 1873:—Daily average number of prisoners, 40·50, of whom 1·05 were females; daily average number of sick, 1·40; number of deaths, 2, or 10 per cent. of the average daily strength. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,240 (£124), or an average of Rs. 28·1 (£2 16s.) per prisoner. This high rate of expenditure is due to the cost of rations at Shillong.